

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /061 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9756

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0473

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MALIK VISIT, JANUARY 7-10-1975

1. ON BASIS INITIAL IMPRESSION, INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK HEWED FAIRLY CLOSELY TO LIMITED, LOW KEY PURPOSE OF VISIT TO OPEN NEW CHANCERY, PLAY GOLF AND PARTICIPATE IN INDONESIAN COM CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH HE DID CONFER WITH PRESIDENT AND MORE EXTENSIVELY WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO, IT DOES NOT APPEAR HE CAME TO MANILA WITH ANY PARTICULAR MISSION IN MIND OTHER THAN CONTINUING GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PHILIPPINES.

2. PHILIPPINES RECIPROCATED SENTIMENT FULSOMELY, BESTOWED WARM PRAISE ON MALIK AS SPOKESMAN FOR COUNTRY WHICH HAS HELPED PHILIPPINES TO RESOLVE MUSLIM PROBLEM, AND PROVIDED EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE. IN DINNER HONORING MALIK, ROMULO DELIVERED LENGTHY TOAST IDENTIFYING PHILIPPINES WITH INDONESIANS. ALTHOUGH NOT UNGRACIOUSLY, MALIK APPEARED TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY NOT TO
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ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE IDENTIFIED AS A PHILIPPINE BOY AND EVEN

REFUSED A PROFFERED DECORATION. TO HELP BALANCE POSSIBLE OVER-IMPRESSION OF IDENTIFICATION WITH PHILIPPINES, MALIK RE-ITERATED IN REMARKS TO PRESS THE ASEAN SCOPE OF INDONESIAN AND PHILIPPINE INTERESTS.

3. PRIOR TO AND DURING MALIK VISIT, PRESS SPECULATED ON CONTRIBUTION HE WOULD MAKE TO SOLVING MUSLIM PROBLEM AND IN PARTICULAR ARRANGING TRIPARTITE SUMMIT. GOP, OF COURSE, KNOWS PRINCIPAL INDONESIAN FIGURES WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM, AND IT MAY BE THAT GOP SIMPLY WISHED, THROUGH PRESS, TO SUGGEST THAT AL TOHAMY, WHO DEPARTED DAY BEFORE MALIK ARRIVED, HAD NOT BECOME EXCLUSIVE AGENT FOR SOLVING MUSLIM PROBLEM. AS REPORTED EARLIER, PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIAND DID REASSURE EACH OTHER PRIVATELY AND SATISFACTORILY ON THIS POINT. ONLY FORAY THAT MALIK MADE ON ACTUAL STEPS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM SO FAR AS WE KNOW WERE MADE IN COMMENTS AS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS THAT TRIPARTITE TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE. "I AM SURE IT WILL BE THIS YEAR. WE'D LIKE TO GIVE MR. MARCOS ENOUGH TIME TO SETTLE THE MINDANAO PROBLEM." OTHER PRESS VERSIONS SUGGESTED SUMMIT WOULD NOT TAKE UP PROBLEM OF REBELLION BECAUSE THAT IS "YOUR PROBLEM." MEDIA REITERATED "INTERNAL MATTER" THEME, WHICH DEAR TO HEARTS OF GOP, AT BEGINNING AND END OF VISIT. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS NEW TWIST ON SUMMITRY WITH THE GOP.

4. WHILE VISIT WAS UNDRAMATIC, NO QUESTION THAT IT GAVE SOLID VALUE. IT PROVIDED GOP OPPORTUNITY TO REASSERT APPRECIATION FOR HELPFUL ROLE OF INDONESIANS, TO MITIGATE ANY CONFUSION THAT AL TOHAMY MAY HAVE CAUSED, AND TO EXPAND AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WHICH PROBABLY INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS OF PRC, ASEAN AS WELL AS MUSLIM PROBLEM. WE HAVE FAIRLY LITTLE COMMENT FROM GOP SO FAR AND WILL AMPLIFY THIS REPORT AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.
SULLIVAN

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